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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT:
Status Report on the SAWRFs in China
15 October 1968

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Status Report on the SAWRFs in China

25X1D Three new "Suspect Advanced Weapons Related Facilities" (SAWRFs) were identified on [REDACTED]. Two are in the early stages of construction, one of them in the Gobi Desert and one near Cheng-chou. One newly identified SAWRF north of Shih-chia-chuang (Shih-men) appears to be complete. A total of ten such facilities has now been identified, five in the Gobi and five in the North China plain (Figure 1). All of them were photographed by [REDACTED]. In our view, the recent evidence reduces the likelihood that the SAWRFs are associated with advanced weapons programs, but it still does not throw much light on their actual function.

25X1D The latest Gobi SAWRF, located 35 nautical miles (nm) north of the Shuang-cheng-tzu rangehead, is designated SCT 5. It was begun sometime after mid- [REDACTED] though unidentified activity had been noted at the area for about two years. It appears to be very similar in pattern to SCT 3, and like SCT 3, it is not rail served. Two other locations in the Gobi -- one 10 nm southwest of SCT 4 and the other 15 nm southwest of SCT 1 -- have recently been expanded in size with the addition of new buildings. It is still too early to determine whether SAWRFs will be constructed at these locations. 25X1D

The Cheng-chou SAWRF is located 10 nm east of town near the terminus of a new rail spur. The spur was first seen on photography of [REDACTED] and the initial construction of the facility appeared on [REDACTED]. Though the construction of the corridor system has not yet begun, the excavation outline indicates that the layout of corridors may differ somewhat from that seen at any other SAWRF (Figure 2). 25X1D

25X1D The Shih-chia-chuang North SAWRF is smaller than any of the other facilities identified to date and is the first one that appears finished. It has been constructed over a portion of an ancient wall surrounding the town of Cheng-ting, seven nm northeast of Shih-chia-chuang. Some activity preliminary to construction was observed in mid- [REDACTED] the corridors were under construction. Photography of [REDACTED] showed little change, but on the next coverage, late in June, the mounding was well advanced, and by [REDACTED] the facility appeared to be complete. The 25X1D mound measures approximately 800 by 500 feet at its base. At least six probable entrances are located around the base, and there are two apertures at the top. A water-filled moat surrounds the SAWRF except for a narrow strip of land that provides access from a main street of the adjoining town. There is no rail service to this facility. What appear to be inscriptions can be seen on the mound but cannot be read on the available small-scale imagery (Figure 3).

Though construction has progressed for over two and one-half years on the Peking East and Shih-chia-chuang East SAWRFs, they are still not complete. Both are rail served and they are now almost completely encircled by moats. Two apertures are atop the Shih-chia-chuang East SAWRF, similar to those at

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Shih-chia-chuang North, and such apertures may also be present at Peking East. At SCT 1 the mounding is apparently complete. A vertical shaft extends to the top of this mound and appears to be capped. There is construction atop the mound which may indicate the presence of a second shaft. The moat surrounding the mound continues to be deepened and broadened. The SCT 2 SAWRF, begun at the same time as SCT 1, remains rail served and similar in appearance, except that it is less advanced in construction. Mounding has begun at SCT 3 and corridor construction continues at SCT 4 (Figure 4).

From a study of the ten facilities, the following generalizations can be made about SAWRFs:

1. Each consists of a system of interconnecting corridors and small room-like projections, which are built at or near ground level and heaped over with earth.
2. When completed, the earth forms a mound 800 to 1200 feet long at the base and 70 to 100 feet in height.
3. At least one and probably two vertical shafts connect the corridor system with apertures at the top of the mound.
4. There are six to ten ground level entrances to the corridors, the number varying with corridor configuration.
5. The mound is surrounded by a moat from which earth was extracted for the mounding.

When the SAWRFs were first discovered, it seemed that the Chinese had assigned considerable priority to their construction. Scarce mechanized earth-moving equipment was utilized, and in some cases valuable agricultural land was appropriated. The timing of the construction, as well as the locations of the facilities (particularly, those near Shuang-cheng-tzu), had suggested a military purpose and perhaps even some missile-related function. The more recent evidence, including the physical appearance of the SAWRF which seems to be complete, reduces the likelihood that they are associated with advanced weapons. Access to the SAWRFs is not uniformly good. Some are rail served, although the rail spur may be removed once construction is complete; others are served only by roads or by urban streets. Except for the moats around them, these facilities are lacking in security measures, and there is no evidence of communication facilities. Some have been undergoing mounding nearly two years since corridors were built without yet achieving completion. Moreover, no physical evidence has turned up to associate these facilities with any phase of any weapons program.

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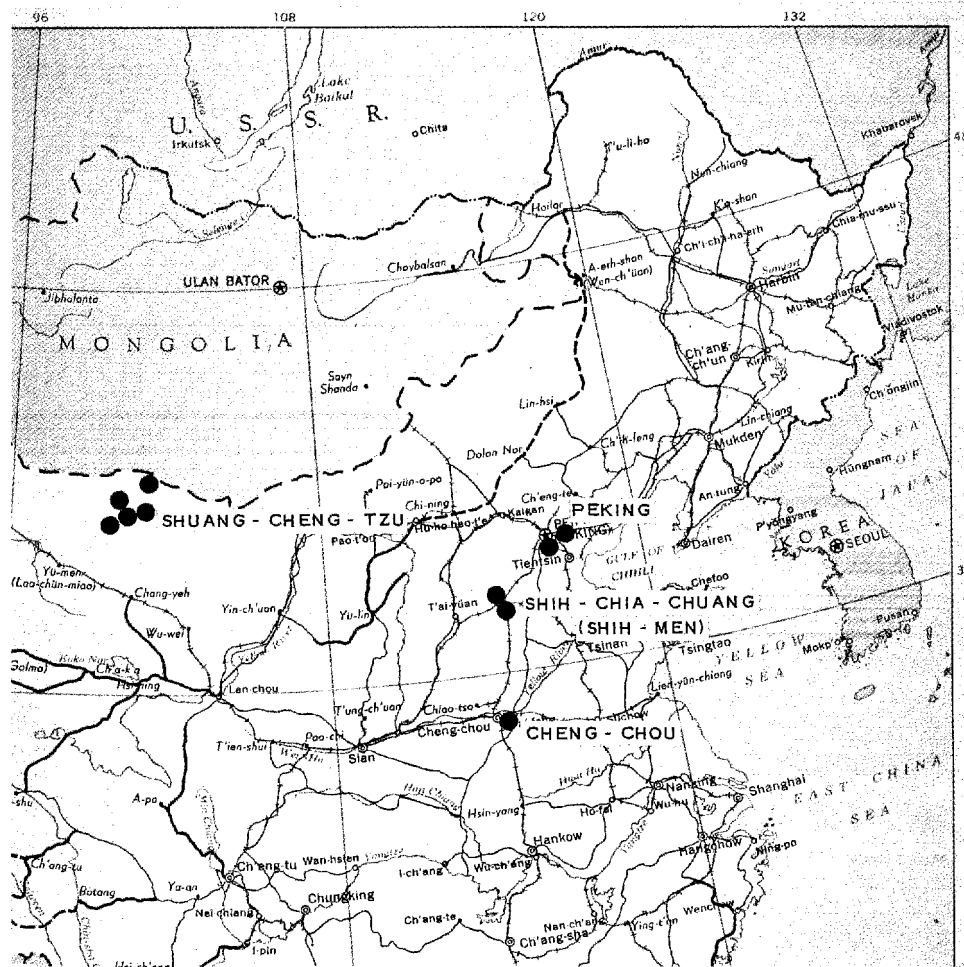


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

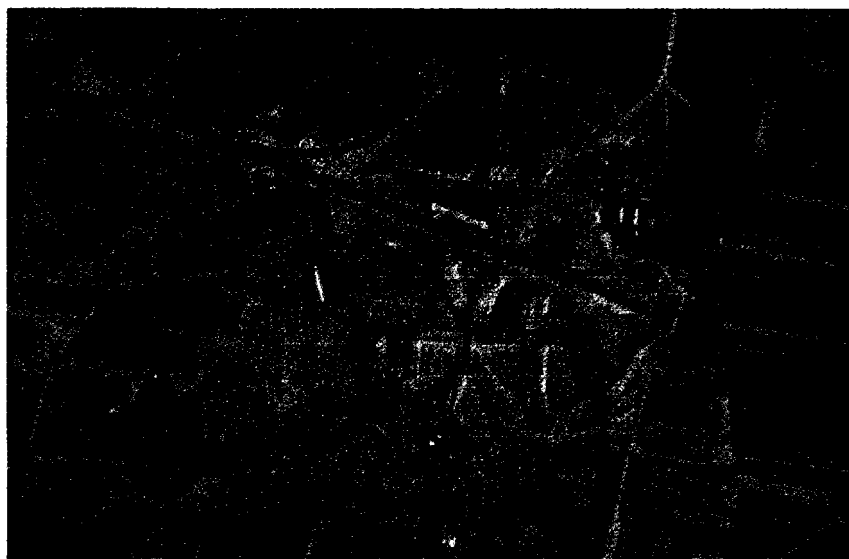
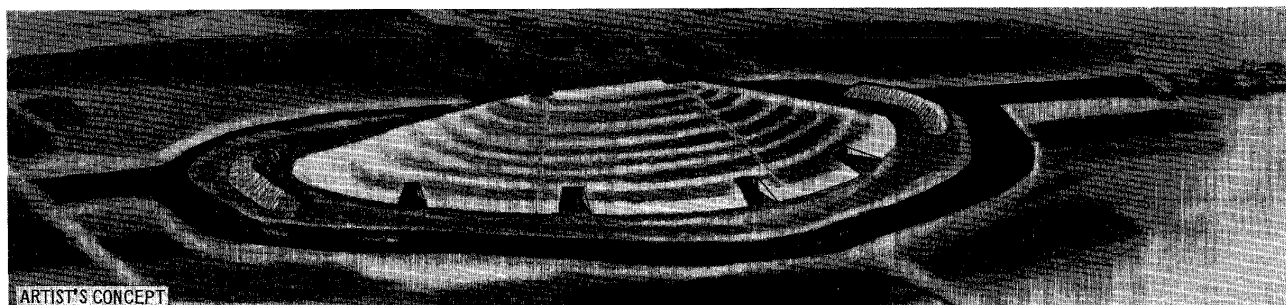


FIGURE 2. CHENG-CHOU SAWRF,

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FIGURE 3. SHIH - CHIA - CHUANG NORTH SAWRF, [REDACTED]

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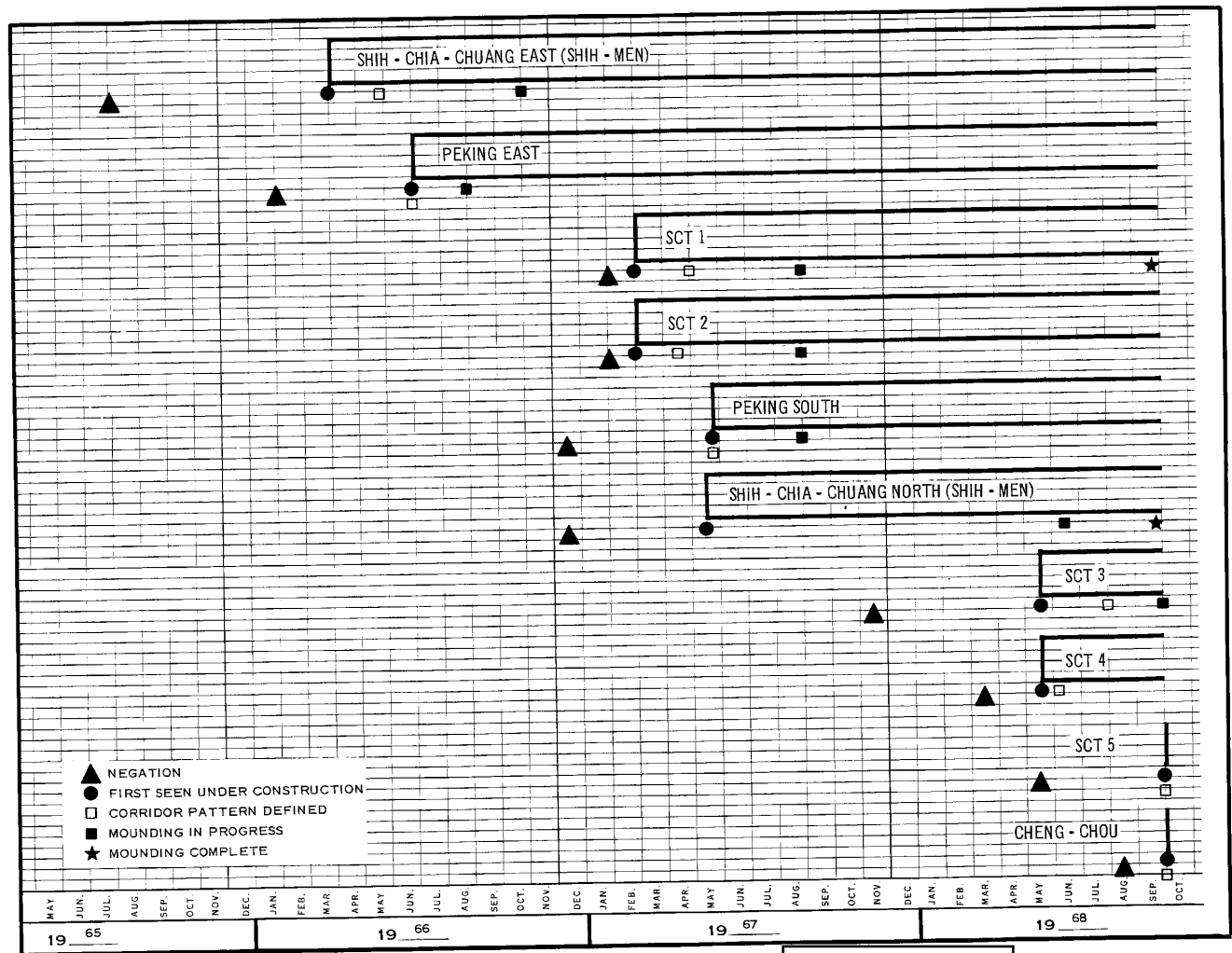


FIGURE 4. CONSTRUCTION TIMING OF THE SAWRFS

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